Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

of a pair of drawers made to fit exceedingly well and tight. In the communication made by him at that time, he suggests the probable utility of applying his invention as a truss for hernia, by merely making a pocket in the drawers and placing in it a ball covered with soft leather. This, with no other pressure than the close fitting of the drawers, he conceived would be found quite effectual for the purpose intended. He has since put this suggestion into practice; at first with no other difference than the substitution of a ball of caoutchouc for one covered with leather; but has subsequently found it most convenient to use a simple pad, with elastic straps passing round the thigh and waist, and covered by the elastic drawers mentioned in his former paper. The drawers, by fitting extraordinarily well and accommodating themselves perfectly to any position of the body, are found to be a most valuable help in preventing any motion of the pad, while at the same time the wearer is not troubled with any feeling of constraint.

No. XI.

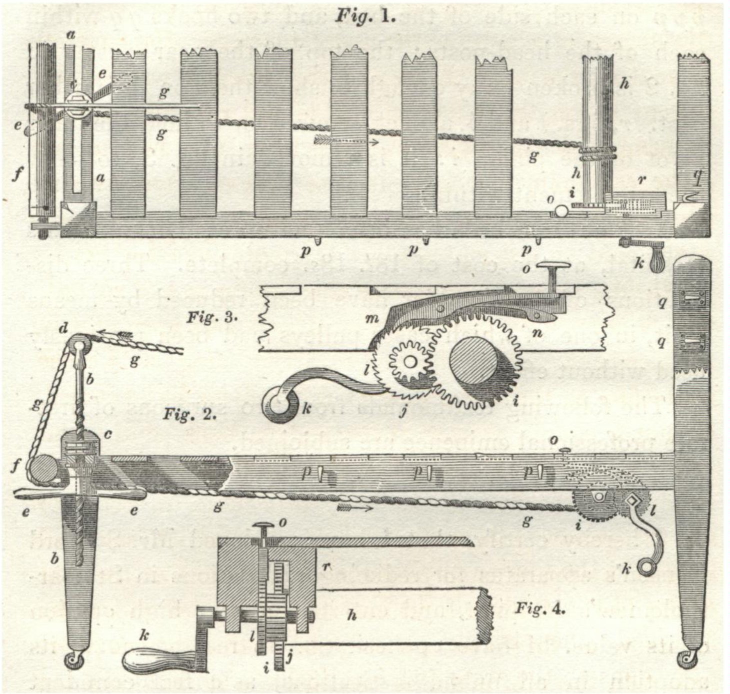
BED FOR REDUCING DISLOCATIONS.

The LARGE SILVER MEDAL *was presented to* STAFFORD BENSON, *Esq., of* 14, *Jewin Crescent, Jewin Street, for his Bed for reducing Dislocations; a Model of which has been placed in the Society's Repository.*

IN dislocations of the larger joints, it is not unfrequently necessary to employ a power greater than the mere strength of one or two assistants, in order to overcome the spasmodic contraction of the muscles, and produce the degree of extension necessary to enable the surgeon to replace the bone in its socket. For this purpose the patient is commonly laid on a table and properly secured by straps; a compound pulley is then attached to the dislocated limb, and a number of persons, from two to five, according as the case may require, are set to pull at the cord, in order to produce the requisite extension.

In Mr. Benson's apparatus the patient is laid in bed, and is secured by strings fastened to hooks *ppp qqq* in the post and side of the bedstead. A sling is likewise made fast to the lower part of the limb to be extended, having a couple of eyes at the end; a hook at the end of the rope *g* takes into these, and the rope is led over a pulley *d* at the foot of the bed, adjustable, in order to fix the proper height and direction in which the pull is to be made; it then passes over a roller *f* at the foot of the bed, and thence returns under the bed to a roller *h*, having a wheel *i* at one end, the teeth of which interlock with those of a pinion turned by a crank. On the same axis with this pinion is a ratchet wheel *l* and click *m*, capable of being thrown out of gear in an instant by pressure on the pin *o*, if sudden relaxation of the strain is required.

Fig. 1 is a top view; fig. 2 a side view, having the nearest leg at the foot of the bed removed to shew the construction. *aa* the foot-rail formed of iron, having a loop in which the upright screw *b b* can traverse to any part of the foot of the bed; it is a square-threaded and rapid screw. *c* a screwed nut, which adjusts the screw and pulley *d* at its top to any required height; *ee* the arms of a lower-screwed nut, by which the screw *b* is bound tight to the rail *a*. There is a loose collet,



sufficiently thick to keep these handles *e e* below the roller *f* and rope *g g*; the roller *f* extends the whole width of the bed, another roller *h h* also goes across near the head of the bed; this has a toothed wheel *i*, in which a pinion *j*, moved by the winch-handle *k*, works. *l* is a ratchet wheel on the pinion axis; *m* its click, with a spring *n; o* a stud on the click (figs. 3 and 4 shew these parts double the size). Thus the pulley *d* can be adjusted and fixed at any height by the nuts *c* and *e*, and the rope *g* can be drawn tight over it towards any part of the bed-foot by the winch *k*, and be immediately loosened at any time by pressing down the stud *o*, which lifts the click out of the ratchet wheel. There are three hooks *ppp* on each side of the bed, and two hooks *qq* within each of the head-posts; the top of the near post *s* in fig. 2 is broken away enough to shew them on the farther post. *r*, figs. 1 and 4, a block screwed on to hold the inner pivot of the pinion *j*: it is removed in fig. 3, to shew the arrangement within.

One of these beds has been put up at Bartholomew's Hospital, at the cost of 18*l.* 18*s.* complete. Three dislocations of the shoulder have been reduced by means of it, in one of which cases pulleys had been previously used without effect.

The following testimonials from two surgeons of first-rate professional eminence are subjoined.

I hereby certify, that I have employed Mr. Stafford Benson's apparatus for reducing dislocations in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and entertain a very high opinion of its value. I have no hesitation in recommending its adoption in all public institutions, as I feel confident that in all cases of difficult dislocation, the employment of it will save the patient much suffering, and the surgeon much fatigue and trouble.

HENRY EARLE.

Dec. 14, 1830.

I have seen the bed for the reduction of dislocations, invented by Mr. Stafford Benson, of which I highly approve.

ASTLEY COOPER.

Conduit Street, 1830.